



Lt. Governor Skillman Welcomes Intercultural Discussion

Last week I hosted the fifth annual Niagara Foundation reception in the Statehouse, and it was great to see long-time friends and greet new ones. The Niagara Foundation, an intercultural organization formerly known as Holy Dove, tirelessly contributes to Indiana's diversity.

I've hosted guests and diplomats from all over the world, and we make it clear Indiana is an internationally open state. The Governor and I have led 10 international trade missions, visiting 14 countries. Those friendships and important trade relationships help Indiana connect with new cultures and new opportunities. Our experiences abroad have reinforced what we already knew: diversity breathes life into Indiana.



Lt. Governor Skillman hosts the fifth annual Niagara Foundation reception at the Statehouse. Also pictured with the Lt. Governor is Bilal Eksili, executive director of the Niagara Foundation.

My earliest experiences in government taught me the value of good, strong relationships. Communication and mutual understanding became even more critical when I served in the Indiana Senate and now as Lt. Governor. In this arena people don't always see eye-to-eye. The communities in Indiana have varying interests and economic needs. Each elected official has a point of view that's valuable, and we need to understand each other in order to do our jobs well.

Strong relationships are even more critical when we bring together different cultural groups. Thankfully, the Niagara Foundation has risen to the challenge of helping us build relationships. By focusing on the things we have in common, together we are able to rise above the differences that divide us.

Becky Skillman



Lt. Governor Skillman oversees the Indiana Department of Agriculture, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, the Office of Energy Development, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, and the Office of Tourism Development. For more, visit her on the web at www.lg.in.gov.